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IMPORT NEWS



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■ **WAINFLEET:** Communal servicing a sensitive issue in development of former Easter Seals Camp site

OMB to decide fate of controversial condo plans

InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET — Bad planning policies or sentimentality and fear of the future?

Ontario Municipal Board chair Joseph Slezek will now have to sift through the body of evidence to determine if issues such as the Fowler's toad habitat, shoreline protection and flooding, lot size, and a controversial communal servicing system have been

resolved to the point where development of the former Lakewood Camp can go forward.

In closing submissions by appellants Lee Botti and Betty Kone on the third day of an OMB hearing, both argued that allowing communal servicing to continue under a 10-hectare lot line in the face of the region's position that properties along the Lake Erie shoreline be serviced municipally.

Lakewood Beach Properties Inc. has stated the communal servicing agreement would be an interim solution that could be modified if the region's future plan for municipal servicing does not materialize.

Municipal services would cost upwards of \$80 million and are currently under review.

Regional lawyer Michael Kyne said these proceedings under the Contested Land Act do not ensure against the township having to bear any cost for the communal servicing system.

See OMB | Page 2

Supplied Graphic

Phase 1 (in colour) and Phase 2 (black and white) of a proposed condominium development in Wainfleet.



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Hearing adjourned pending decision

FROM PAGE 1

Lawyer Tom Richardson, who represented the township, agreed.

"If the modification to the official plan is allowed to proceed, there is a mechanism to protect rate payers from the costs, should the communal system fail," he said.

Richardson said the decision by the township to allow the region to proceed with a local official plan amendment (OPA) is based on "good planning." The land is zoned Lakeshore residential.

He asked the appeal by Kone and Bott be "dismissed."

Kyne said Kone's "foundation" for the appeal is that the public would like to see the area remain the same.

"They prefer things remain the way they are," he said, recalling comments Kone made at the hearing. "They don't want to provide opportunity for outsiders."

He said OPA 18 was not a "rubber stamp" for the development, but was developed with "care in protecting the public interest."

The appellants felt a development freeze should be in place as a result of ongoing water issues in the municipality. They said communal systems are not an option with residents who already face boil water orders from the region's department of health.

Bott also argued that Wainfleet is a welcoming community to outsiders. She said condominiums are an urban solution and do not suit the character of a rural community.

"People from the city come to the country and they want to find the city here," Bott said. "If you want to stay in the city, stay in the city. That is what [Kone] means."

Kyne said the region recognizes there is an issue in Wainfleet.

"It's an expensive and complex issue that will take time to resolve."

Kone, who filed her appeal on behalf of the Wainfleet Residents Association, said she is not against development along the lakeshore. She said development will, however, result in the need for more servicing in the form of things like professional firefighters, more schools and costs that all residents will have to bear.

Throughout the day, both Bott and Kone argued against the proposal that the site consisted of "one lot" and lot density for the proposal was 1.4 units per acre.

Despite studies, she offered anecdotal information observed over 27 years of living in the area.

Bott said there are "no guarantees" with respect to flooding when it involves Lake Erie.

Bott said the region and the township were overseeing the extinction of the Fowler's toad by approving the development.

The hearing has now adjourned pending a final decision by the board.

Hearings began Wednesday and drew about 100 people, mostly interested in legal and technical aspects presented by lawyers and experts on a number of issues that are impeding the construction of condominiums by Lakeshore Beach Properties Inc. at the former Easter Seals Camp on Lakeshore Rd.

Lakeshore Beach lawyer John Crossingham had the proceedings which addressed outstanding items from the last hearing. Those four items included the flooding which morphed into examining wave uprush and Casey's Drain, protecting the Fowler's Toad habitat, construction density and communal servicing.

"There is no magic bullet in a subdivision, it's not," Crossingham said.

Mark Brubbel, a biologist with Dillon Consulting performed an environmental impact study in consultation with the NPCA and the Ministry of Natural Resources.

He said the Fowler's Toad requires habitat protection in the dunes and said a trail system would be developed to prevent residents from walking in the toad area and also noted that public education is pertinent. The toad is a threatened species and lives on sandy beaches and breeds in marshy shallows of lakes or permanent ponds.

"There will be certain areas where development will have to stay completely out."

Brubbel said the NPCA's main concern was the shoreline protection and suggested ecological enhancement opportunities such as planting native plants and stabilizing the beach. He said his professional opinion was that development can proceed with appropriate measures."

Brubbel said a clear construction plan would be put in place with temporary fences erected to keep construction equipment out of protected areas. The timing of construction would also be considered to minimize its impact.

Brian Bishop, civil engineer with AMEC who specializes in water resource engineering, was seen peer reviewer on the Casey's Drain study. He developed a flood plan map with the drain and investigated potential impacts.

He said by widening a gap between the drain and the sand dune, the level of flooding could be reduced by six to seven centimetres.

"The site would be flood proof," he said.

Mike Varty, an environmental engineer with Genivar addressed the communal water system by examining daily sewage flows, soil property in addition to the development's future disposal, treatment and management of biosolids. Genivar used a conventional gravity sewer and a high bore system with treatment tanks at the source.

"There are advantages and disadvantages for both systems," he said. "Sewage sewers provide the best solutions, but aren't an option at this time."

"There is no magic bullet in a subdivision, it's not," Crossingham said.

Mark Brubbel, a biologist with Dillon Consulting performed an environmental impact study in consultation with the NPCA and the Ministry of Natural Resources.

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"There will be certain areas where development will have to stay completely out."

Bott was visibly upset when Gary Hendry, an engineer with Genivar highlighted results from well testing program that made the Bott home well dropped 4.3 metres in 12 hours. He said the water yield from back 20 miles was seasonal but said the system is "unable to handle the handle the system is "unable to handle the

"I could see my check valve and our water was bad for a week after," she said, noting her alarm rang for three days because of the low water levels.

Hendry acknowledged the severe drop in water yield from the Bott well, but the question was to determine how much water consumption would affect surrounding wells.

During the second day of hearings project planner Tom Smart said since Phase 1 is

being built on one property, they can build

35 homes on 25 acres and under the provincial legislature's condominium act, the condominiums don't have to abide by the minimum lot size. He said each property owner will receive the exclusive use of a property for a grade.

"So you twisted the wording," Bott asked.

"No, it comes out of the condominium exclusive use area," Smart replied.

He also noted that although a boil water advisory is in place, the property would not be subjected to the advisory because it has its own water system, which is acidic.

Smart said because Phase 1 is technically considered to be one lot, the piping used to supply water to homes and to eliminate solid waste could connect to the municipal line if it was implemented. The condominium corporation would also bear the financial costs to decommission the communal system.

Smart said the condo corporation has entered into a responsibility agreement with the region and the township if the corporation failed and wasn't able to maintain the property's treatment facilities.

In the meantime, he said the condominium corporation has a fund specifically designated to cover maintenance and long-term replacement.

Andrew Vitaterna a group manager of environmental services addressed water consumption and said they estimate 3.6 residents per unit would consume 250 litres of water per day. That totals 31,500 litres per day with a treatment plant designed to filter 25,000 litres per day.

Township planner Chuck Miller reviewed a number of public information sessions, submissions from residents for and against the project and also outlined changes that were made to the township's Official Plan to fit the project.

"It's not uncommon for larger developments to have exceptions," he said of the amendments made to the township's policies. He also noted that a portion of Phase 1 was pre-designated as Lakeshore residential area and in the places to grow act, development can take place in an existing development area. "In our opinion the lake shore construction conforms with us," Miller added.

"It seems we are doing a lot of special provisions to make this the perfect fit," Bott said.

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Investing in future Gators



Lakeshore Catholic High School hosted a hockey camp for male and female Grade 4 to 8 students last week. They invited 30 St. Elizabeth Catholic Elementary School students in addition to St. Patrick Elementary School students. Hockey coaches took students through drills, shooting and a scrimmage at the end of the day to give future gators an opportunity to hone in on their hockey skills.

— Kaesha Forand, Staff Photos



Upper left: Giovanni Dinardi makes a skate stop.
Upper right: Players pause before beginning the morning camp.
Above: A number of drills tested players' ability to transition quickly.
Lower left: Players pose for a photo.

INPORT NEWS

Published by InPort News
Osprey Media Publishing Inc.
228 East Main St., PO Box 278
Welland, ON L3B 5P5

Tel: 905-732-2411 Fax: 905-732-3660
import@wellandtribune.ca

Ken Koyama, publisher, general manager

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■ Ourview

Weighing both sides

There are two sides to an argument.

One party is for an issue and the other is completely against it.

That's how we begin the story of the Lakewood Camp

Two St. Catharines based developers want to build a fancy condominium development at the former Easter Seals Camp, but many Wainfleet residents are against the project.

We're not here to take sides but to understand the feelings expressed by both parties.

Let's start with the developers, who appealed to the Ontario Municipal Board because they believed the development would breach seven key components, including minimum lot size, the protection of the Fowler's toad and the implementation of a water sewer system to service the area.

They raise valid points.

Any time that you destroy or alter a habitat, animals, insects and birds that call that area home are displaced. Although efforts are being made to ensure the Fowler's toad has a safe place to live, the toad is at risk of drowning from jumping on the road and being squished by vehicles.

These condominiums will be purchased by people who have become accustomed to living with dishwashers, bathtubs and those who may not abide by the "if it's yellow let it mellow" lifestyle that many Wainfleet residents use to conserve water. Odds are these homeowners won't be concerned about water conservation that come with living in Wainfleet.

On the other hand, this development will surely be appealing. The homes will probably be perfectly manicured, common areas will provide residents with a place to socialize and certain areas will remain forested.

From the township perspective, these homes will bring in a significant amount of tax dollars that can be invested throughout the township — not bad for a township that has the smallest tax base and the second largest land mass in Niagara.

We understand that Wainfleet is rural, and it should keep its rural charm, but it's unreasonable to believe that development should stop.

Certain areas in Niagara are running out of space to build new developments like Wainfleet and Port Colborne are obvious areas to grow.

Some condominiums are not a characteristic often associated with a rural community, but a walk along the lake reveals previous council allowed plenty of development throughout the area.

There is a sensible balance to keep in Wainfleet, let's hope if the project moves forward that balance can keep developers, new residents and current residents in harmony.

■ AND THE WINNER IS ...



Supplied Photo

The Port Colborne Hospital Foundation recently held the draw for a Christmas basket won by Lindsay Rahaman. The basket was donated by Friends of the Foundation and helped raise \$760. Dr. Sohail Saffi (left) and foundation treasurer Leslie Kenney drew the winning ticket.

■ readers' views

Thanks for support

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who helped and supported both Jeff and I along with Betty Kome and the Wainfleet Ratepayers Association, during the OMB hearing held on Jan. 13 to 15 at the Wainfleet township hall.

The support we have had from our

community was wonderful. All those

who were able to attend all or part of the

hearing being held during the week

when so many are at work, your support was greatly appreciated.

We were fighting to preserve one of

the last pieces of public beach access in

Wainfleet. We were fighting to pre-

serve environmentally significant

land that is the documented habitat

of the Fowler's toad (a species at risk)

as well as habitat of the red-headed

woodpecker and the red-tailed hawk.

We were fighting to protect the owl

as well as the endangered species list.

Not to mention the other animals

found on site that call Lakewood their

home.

We were fighting for our country way of life. Not just ours but all the residents in this neighbourhood that purchased properties with the existing conveniences of living in the city for the peaceful security of country living.

We didn't move here to have the city follow us.

All I can say is, along with Betty Kome and Adrienne, did all we could to do the best of our abilities to fight for this cause. We are not "professionals" nor claim to be.

We only know we did our research as well as life experiences living at the lake. We told the truth and upheld our oath on the Bible at the hearing.

It's out of our hands now.

Lee Bott
Wainfleet

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■ UKRAINE

Two cheers for democracy



Gwynne Dyer

Yushchenko, Timoshenko and Yanukovich were once called the eternal triangle of Ukrainian politics, and it was not a compliment. But one side of it is not what it used to be: one side of the triangle is about to disappear.

Five years ago, when the Orange Revolution in Ukraine turned Viktor Yushchenko (now president) and Yulia Timoshenko (now prime minister) into democratic heroes, the villain of the piece was Viktor Yanukovich, the leader of the opposition who had tried to steal the 2004 election. But it hasn't been a happy five years in Ukraine since then, and it's even possible that Yanukovich will win the presidency fair and square this time.

It's certain that Yushchenko will run again in the election on March 16. In a manner unimaginable, he persists in running for re-election, but he is unlikely to get more than 2 or 3% of the vote. He has been a very weak president except in one area: his obsessive feud with his former ally, Yulia Timoshenko, which has all but ruined the government of Ukraine for five wasted years.

It's likely that she bears as much of the blame as he does for this disastrous clash of personalities, but she is a much more vivid personality and an adroit politician. The public has largely forgotten her, but she will all but vanish from the political scene after the election on Jan. 17, while "Yulia" (as she is known to everyone in Ukraine) will slug it out with her old enemy Viktor Yanukovich in the second round of voting on Feb. 7.

Last time around, this was an unpronounceable acronym, but it was a great story: the young democratic heroine Yushchenko in her trademark brash, committed to modernising Ukraine, and bringing it into the European Union and the NATO military alliance, versus the corrupt and callous Yanukovich, who wanted to drag Ukraine back into collectivist poverty and political subjugation to Russia. But things look different this time.

The greatest difference is that there no longer seems to be such a difference between their policies. It's now clear that Ukraine will never join NATO, despite Yanukovich's desire to seek a confrontation with Russia, and only 20% of Ukrainians would support membership in NATO anyway.

See GWYNNE DYER | Page 5

■ GWINNE DYER

Not everyone wants democracy

FROM PAGE 4

It is already suffering severe indigestion from its last round of expansion in Eastern Europe, and taking in a new波音公司 with a population of 45 million people would not be very high on the EU's list of priorities—even if it were not also reluctant to annoy the Russians. So Tymoshenko and Yanukovich no longer have much to disagree about in foreign policy.

Neither is there much to argue about on economic policy any more, since the country has few remaining options.

Five years of governmental paralysis left Ukraine in a vulnerable position when the recession struck.

The apparent prosperity depended on a huge inflow of foreign investment and the prosperity drained away as fast as the foreign capital itself. Ukraine's economy shrank by 15% last year, and the national currency, the hryvnia, has halved in value.

Whether Yanukovich or Tymoshenko wins hardly matters economically. Only massive loans from the International Monetary Fund are keeping the economy afloat at the moment, and for some time to come it will be the IMF not the new government, that makes the key economic decisions.

So what's left? Well, they could fight over national identity.

The west of the country is Ukrainian-speaking and deeply nationalistic; the east is mostly Russian-speaking, heavily industrialized, and would welcome closer ties with Russia.

So that's what the two leading presidential candidates have chosen to fight, with Tymoshenko promising to keep Ukrainian as the sole official language and Yanukovich promising equal status for the Russian language.

Given the demography of Ukraine, this probably means that Tymoshenko wins the presidency in the second round of voting.

Indeed, a recent poll disclosed that only 30% of Ukrainians think that the change to democracy has been good for their country, whereas 50% of Russians think so.

(The nationalist vote is split too many ways in the first round, with a total of 18 candidates running.)

But who cares, apart from Ukrainians?

The glory days of the Orange Revolution were misleading. The key fact about the country is that Ukrainian per capita income is only about a third of Russia's.

When the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991 Ukraine kept its steel and chemical industries, and its mining and energy industry, but the oil and gas stayed in Russia.

Ukraine has to pay through the nose for it, and it simply must stay on good terms with Russia.

With so little room for manoeuvre abroad, and such rampant corruption at home (it is said that 400 of the 450 members of parliament are millionaires), Ukrainians have grown very cynical about democracy.

Indeed, a recent poll disclosed that only 30% of Ukrainians think that the change to democracy has been good for their country, whereas 50% of Russians think so.

And only 26% of Ukrainians say that they are satisfied with their lives.

Democracy does not cure all wounds.

Gwynne Dyer is a London-based independent journalist whose articles are published in 45 countries.

localbrief

LOCAL WOMAN FACES CHARGES

PORT COLBORNE — A 28-year-old Port Colborne woman faces numerous charges after she seriously injured in a crash four months ago.

Niagara Regional Police say the woman was heading south on Elm St. in a van on Sept. 22 at 5:02 a.m. The van was travelling at a high rate of speed, jumped railway tracks and then struck a utility pole, lost control when it landed, slid sideways through the Clarence St. intersection and sheared a traffic pole from its base, exposing live wires as the pole fell on a sidewalk.

Police arrested Julie Ryan. She was charged with dangerous driving, impaired driving and driving with a blood alcohol concentration above 80, causing and operating a motor vehicle without insurance, using plates not authorized for the vehicle, and owning and operating an unsafe vehicle. She is scheduled to appear in court in March.

— Inport News Staff

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HEALTH EXPERT
BRENDAN BRAZIER

Continual Cleansing for Optimal Health & Vitality

There are many excellent articles and books dedicated to cleansing so I won't go too much into the details in this article. What is interesting to note, however, is that all of them prescribe complete abstinence from animal-based foods and focus solely on plant-based nutrition during the cleansing process. My take on it is that if you are going to start a cleanse, then why not do it the right way?

That's what I did. I ate the Thrive Diet, a common sense, simple approach to eating that is based on plant-based, whole foods.

We're destined to take the plunge and do a cleanse. That is a great first step. Once you have completed the cleanse of your system, you will likely feel much better and you won't want that great feeling to go away. So, how do you extend and expand upon the cleansing benefits for long-term health and well-being? Start by eating more whole foods and less processed foods and vegetables. Eat on a regular basis, these foods will start the natural transition process away from processed foods that cause the body to become acidic.

At first, however, the body will not naturally crave plant-based foods when it is accustomed to processed and refined foods. You have to simply begin by adding more raw, natural, plant-based foods into your diet but without sacrificing anything. Over time, you will naturally crave these foods. As you begin to eat the more processed foods and you will gravitate towards the least processed whole foods. I know this sounds very simple, but it is a scientific fact that when the body has all of its nutritional needs fulfilled, cravings will dramatically decline.

To get to the point where you no longer have to restrain yourself from eating unhealthy food is a great feeling and a wonderful accomplishment. It is also a great way to make a smooth transition to a more healthy lifestyle. Constantly fighting cravings is not a truly healthy way to live so

changing the perception of what your body desires is fundamental to breaking cravings permanently.

A simple way to do this is to make sure you eat well by making healthy choices at home and driving through an eat-in or eat-out. Beginning your day with a smoothie made with Vega Whole Food Optimizer is one of the best ways to get the body going, providing clean burning, easily absorbed fuel to jump start your day.

Smoothies are easy and convenient to prepare and can pack a lot of nutrition into a glass. They make great tasting snacks for all parties. It is important to remember though that smoothies are not a meal replacement, they are a healthy snack, not a meal.

Start by adding a smoothie base. Start by adding a smoothie base, then add your favorite fruits and vegetables.

Smoothies are a great way to add more plant-based foods to your diet. I like my smoothies to incorporate all the elements of a complete meal including protein and fibre. By adding my favorite greens and a fruit smoothie, I ensure all the nutrients needed for an ideal smoothie.

Green smoothies are great for those who are on a cleanse.

• Use ripe whole fruit and just juice for flavor and sweetness rather than adding sugar or artificial sweeteners

• Incorporate multiple sources of protein for a balanced amino acid profile

• Add a few drops of Omega-3 & EFA's for their countless health benefits

• Try adding some "green foods" to pack in extra servings of vegetables

In my book, The Thrive Diet, I include several recipes for chocolate-y, creamy smoothies. I created Vega Whole Food Optimizer as an easy, on-the-go alternative providing complete protein, fibre and shake with water or juice. It is a great meal replacement, juice and smoothie base and you have all the nutrition of a great liquid meal that will facilitate continued cleansing!

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■ VALE INCO: Striking workers rally to mark six-month anniversary

'No one wins in a strike'

ALLAN BENNER
InPort News Staff

PORTE COBORNE — Monday Jan. 11 passed without a strike at the Port Colborne plant — for those on the picket lines as well as those still working inside.

Striking workers at the company's plant in Sudbury held a rally to mark the date, said Steven Ball, corporate affairs manager for Vale Inco's Ontario operations.

But for the company itself, Jan. 11 was not a date it wanted to recognize. It marked the six-month anniversary of the start of strike by workers represented by United Steelworkers Local 6200.

"Six months is not a date certainly that anyone is proud of," Ball said.

"No one wins in a strike. It has an impact on those who are on strike, as well as on

those who are working."

It has a financial and emotional impact on the striking workers — 3,000 of them at both the Port Colborne and Sudbury facilities. But it also takes an emotional toll on the company staff who continue to work there.

"It weighs everybody down."

Despite the impasse the negotiators from the union and company have reached, Ball is confident the strike will eventually be resolved.

It's not a matter of if — it's a question of when.

"It will be resolved. There's no question. It will be resolved at the bargaining table."

But before that can happen, he said the union needs to recognize the global challenges the company is facing. And it needs to allow changes to be made to employees

contracts, to allow the company to overcome those challenges.

"Some fundamental changes are needed in the collective agreements in Sudbury and Port Colborne as part of an ongoing commitment to succeeding in our company, in order to meet the demands of the business that we're in — tomorrow and in the future," he said.

"Fundamentally the world economy has changed, and our operations in Ontario have some fairly significant challenges — particularly around needing massive capital investment to maintain our competitiveness and sustainable well into the future."

He said costs need to be brought down to ensure the company has enough funds to reinvest in its facilities.

For instance, he said to meet changing environmental requirements, the Sudbury plant will have to spend up to \$1.3 billion over the next five years. And that's not including the ongoing costs of mining and producing the metal.

"We've done some fantastic work over the past two decades of getting our emissions down, but the limits (on allowable emissions) keep coming down."

Meanwhile, he said the market for the nickel the company produces is another

challenge Vale Inco faces.

And supply continues to outweigh demand for nickel on global markets.

"We are in a very competitive world," he said.

During confidential negotiations last month, Ball said the situation the company faces was explained to the union's negotiating team.

The negotiators discussed the need for changes to collective agreements to make the company sustainable for the long term.

"And sadly for whatever reason, it appears (the union) chose not to believe that," Ball added.

The company is eager to get back to the table with the union.

He said Vale Inco has asked the union several times to set up a meeting between the lead negotiators, to establish a frame work for the new contract.

"They have not accepted that offer ... that's why we're at an impasse."

He said calling in a mediator to help the two sides reach an agreement hasn't been discounted.

But before that can happen, he said both sides need to return to the table.

abennner@wellandtribune.ca

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SEARCHING FOR TOP VOLUNTEERS AND BUSINESSES

PORTE COBORNE — The Port Colborne-Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce is searching for exceptional Port Colborne and Wainfleet residents and businesses.

The annual President's Awards Reception will be

held Wednesday, March 3 but this year's event will be different than previous events. Edith Wagner, chamber office manager said instead of the usual gala dinner, a smaller reception will be held during the week.

"It will be better, it seems everybody is going that way."

They hope to sell 125 tickets for the 7 p.m. cocktail hour followed by the awards of excellence ceremony at 8 p.m., where a youth citizen of the year, citizen of the year and business of the year will be honored.

Wagner said anybody who knows a deserving person or business from Port Colborne or Wainfleet should visit the chamber's website at www.pwcchamber.com, on the right side of the main page to print the application form. Nominations must be submitted by Friday, Jan. 29 at 3 p.m. at the office on Main St. The nominees will be asked to answer three simple questions outlining why the person or business has made a difference in their community and how he or she has exemplified voluntary contributions.

"We need the support of the community and the recognition volunteers for what they've done to go above and beyond."

The year of the year award has been given out since 1981. Most recent honourees include Brett Kovach, Jamie Faegan and Florine McIntyre. The chamber has been honouring business of the year since 1988.

Previous winners include Oskam Steel Fabricators Ltd., Dundee Wealth Management, and Miani's Food Mart and Bakery.

The city's future leaders have been honoured since 1995. Previous young citizens of the year include Charlene Hartwick, Matthew Pash and Krista Balmer.

For more information or to request nomination forms through e-mail or fax, contact the chamber at 905-834-9765. Forms can also be picked up at the office.

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■ ONTARIO EARLY YEARS CENTRE: Celebrating Family Literacy Day Jan. 27

Sing for the love of literacy



KAESHA FORAND Staff Photo

Ontario Early Years Centre program facilitator Kelly Wilcox gives a sneak preview of *Five Little Monkeys Sitting in a Tree* to Rhys Kimber and his mother Lauren. The book will be the main focus of the upcoming Family Literacy Day to be held Jan. 27 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Early Years Centre at Port Cares, 92 Charlotte St.



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KAESHA FORAND
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — The Ontario Early Years Centre believes it is important for children to be engaged in literacy through a number of outlets including reading, singing and playing games.

Through the Family Literacy Day, OEYC staff will highlight the importance of literacy through song. Parents who participate with their children will receive information and supplies to help make learning fun.

OEYC site supervisor Lori Brady said they are encouraging parents or caregivers to build their child's literacy skills during Family Literacy Day Wednesday Jan. 27 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the centre in Port Cares.

The event aims to help participants brush up on their literacy skills in fun and different ways. Its featured book will be *Five Little Monkeys Sitting in a Tree* by Eileen Christelow.

Event details, Family Literacy Day

Where: Jan. 27, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
What: Brush up on literacy through song, for parents and children!

Where: Port Cares, at the Ontario Early Years Centre, 92 Charlotte St., Port Colborne

Contact: Call 905-834-9071 for required registration

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■ **MUSICAL:** Red, Hot and Cole premieres next month

A musical tribute to Cole Porter

JORDAN NUNZIATO
For InPort News

PORT COLBORNE — From Indiana to New York, London, Paris and Venice, Cole Porter has seen it all.

The musical legend travelled to stages and penthouses all over the world, and soon he will be right in our own backyards. Curtains will be drawn, stage lights will shine and Porter's music will ring through the air as the Port Colborne Operatic Society presents *Red, Hot and Cole*.

This production of song and dance will hit the Lakeshore Catholic High School auditorium Feb. 19. It will run weekends until March 7.

See **MUSICAL** | Page 9

JORDAN NUNZIATO InPort News Photo
Stephanie Menicanin and Tim Barnai rehearse their roles as Linda and Cole Porter respectively, for the Port Colborne Operatic Society's production of *Red Hot and Cole*, premiering Feb. 19.



• At least 1 in 3 people could still get H1N1.

• Half of those in hospital with H1N1 have been under 24 years old.

• Flu season continues until April.

• 1 in 5 people hospitalized with H1N1 have ended up in intensive care and/or on ventilators.

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■ MUSICAL

Operatic society warms up for Red, Hot and Cole

FROM PAGE 8

"Cole Porter's music is extremely difficult, but it can also be quite funny and moving as well," says stage director Heather Alvin.

Porter — who lived from 1891 to 1964 — is widely known for his shows on Broadway — such as *Kiss Me, Kate*, *Anything Goes* and *Fifty Million Frenchmen* — as well as songs like *Night and Day*, *I Get a Kick Out of You*, *We'll Do You Right*, and *I've Got You Under My Skin*.

Besides writing music for Hollywood movies — including *Broadway Musical* of 1940, *The Pirate*, and *High Society* — his life

was chronicled in films such as the 1946 movie *Night and Day* and the 2004 film *De-Lovely*.

The PCOS production of *Red, Hot and Cole*, according to Alvin, is a remembrance of Porter's life.

"He was a very involved man, very debonair and very involved with the world. He was very involved in writing his music and had a different take on things," she says.

"He was around for the golden age of jazz and musicals and wrote a lot of Broadway shows that many are familiar with."

This production pays homage to the way Porter captivated audiences around the globe, and many of his classic numbers — as well as not so well-known ones — will be performed.

"This production will showcase a large variety of music," says music and choral director Faye Bean.

"We will be performing 50 plus songs, but in bits and pieces."

She adds that the older crowd may know

Cole Porter's music is extremely difficult, but it can also be quite funny and moving as well.

Heather Alvin, stage director

the hits more than the youth, but the entire audience will be exposed to the old-fashioned musical, experiencing it in an entertaining and lively showcase.

"It's that era and the music of that era that we are showcasing," says Bean.

Bean says that some of the songs will begin to play, the crowd will get a taste of the classic hit, and then dialogue will interrupt.

"The finale will be the best for recognizing music," says Bean.

All of the music will be performed live.

"We have a pianist, bassist and drummer, and all of the cast will sing — it's a completely live experience."

The show stars Tim Barnai as Cole Porter and Stephanie Menicanin as his wife Linda

Porter. It also features Allison Fox as Ethel Merman, Laurie Labelle as Elsa Maxwell, Dahlia Brannigan as Bricketop and Emily Denner as Bella Spewak.

Evening performances are scheduled to begin at 8 p.m. and matinees at 2 p.m.

Reserved seating is \$17 and may be ordered by calling 905-834-9318.

Show details

What: Red, Hot and Cole

Presented by: Port Colborne Operatic Society

Shows: Feb. 19, 20, 21, 24, 27 and 28; March 5, 6, and 7

Where: Lakeshore Catholic High School auditorium, 150 Janet St., Port Colborne

 It's a completely live experience.

Faye Bean, musical director



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I'VE BEEN THINKING

Life mimics Christmas Eve experience

JEVA SAM

Morgan's Point and Forks Road East United Churches

Christmas Eve 2009 was memorable for two distinctly different reasons. It was the first time in three years

that our entire family was together on Dec. 24 with the arrival of my daughter, Priya, who had been teaching English in Korea for the past two-and-a-half years.

We all climbed into the family car and headed down the highway to the Christmas Eve service at Morgan's Point United

Church.

It's a great service, as always, with our choir telling the Christmas story in song interspersed with readings of the nativity, the congregation singing familiar Christmas carols with great gusto, and the preacher delivering a heartwarming — yet body-squirming — message, sprinkled with appropriate illustrations, liberal doses of humour and lots of my own stories.

As always, the service ended with the singing of *Silent Night* and a candle lighting. It was everything you'd expect a Christmas Eve service to be ... and then some!

Reason No. 2: It all started about 45 minutes prior to the service, when Priya — who was still dealing with jet lag — asked us if we wanted her a cup of Tim Hortons coffee. Papa obliged and headed into Port, only to be greeted by a silent light at the location in the dark.

"Fear not" I assured my daughter. "There is another one right around the bend."

We sped to the one on Main St., no coffee. We did not risk a trip to the one at the corner of Hwy. 140 and Hwy. 3 as it was

getting closer to the service time by now. Thankfully, the aforementioned man had enough java in it to keep our drowsy daughter wide awake without the aid of a medium double double, praise God.

Following the service, we headed off to London to spend Christmas Day with my parents and siblings. It was tired, but quite content that the caffeine content of a large coffee was enough to get me there from here in two hours or less.

Imagine our absolute horror when we discovered that not even the coffee shops off the freeway exits were open.

Thankfully, we made it safely to our destination without an assist from the balding coffee gods.

Does not life mirror what we experienced on Christmas Eve?

There is a part of life which is totally predictable — like the service — and another part which catches us off guard — like the unpredictable early closure (at least, unexpected on our part) of Tim Hortons.

See I'VE BEEN THINKING | Page 14

Nothing to lose?

New to the fitness challenge this year is the introduction of Category 2, for participants whose goal is not weight loss, but strength and cardio gains. This selection is done on an individual basis so that Category 1 participants (weight loss focus) and Category 2 participants can be on the same team.

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Year in review



Staff Photos
Amanda Morely (pictured above) was encouraging residents who find large amounts of bees to contact her instead of killing them since bees are vital to pollinating Niagara's precious resources: our agriculture. In the background is beekeeper George Scott tending to a colony of caucasian honey bees in May



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- Your mouth is constantly changing. Inspect your denture regularly for worn teeth and cracks. Be sure to visit your dentist regularly as part of your recommended check up schedule.
- Some medications can affect denture fit and wearability so be sure to discuss this with your doctor and dental professional.
- Only your dental professional is qualified to diagnose your oral health and adjust your denture or partial.
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The Shea family including Joshua, 3, Caleb, 5, Charissa and Bradley stand in front of their Habitat for Humanity house. The family was announced as the new owners of the house on Paul St. in Port Colborne in May.

See LOOKING BACK AT 2009 | Page 13

Linda Sloat vice chair and Gino Spada chair of the Port Colborne Gateway Association stand behind the new Lock 8 Gateway park sign in May. The park is a big part of the city will see throughout the next two decades. This year, Phase 1 will be implemented and will see changes made form curb to storefront to provide a friendly and comfortable streetscape environment. Spada also displays the 166-page community improvement plan.

Bridges Community Health Centre provided its services to Port Colborne and Wainfleet residents in October. Pictured from left is certified diabetes educator Marcie Turpel, IT and data manager Luigi Moreno, centre executive director Taralea McLean, clinical Jason St-Hilaire and diabetes educator Megan Sullivan.

Looking back at 2009

FROM PAGE 12



Staff Photos

Pictured above: Firefighters stood on what's left of Port Colborne's historic Reeb House, which went up in flames in December.



Lakeshore Catholic school held its pilgrimage, the Gator Walk in October in support of Third World projects for people in need.

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Striking Inco workers have been on the picket line since Oct. 12 and with no bargaining in sight, they're not looking forward to a long, cold winter of huddling around the fire. Strikers include from front left Andy Blodeau and Dave Beck, and in the back row are Rob Sardella, Rich Agius, Moreno Francescanelli, Mike Courchesne and Ralph Williams on site in October.



The City of Port Colborne was presented with a Safe Community award in April. From left, in back, Mayor Vance Badaway, Safe Communities Canada president and founder Paul Kells, Safe Communities Canada board chair John Dalzell, student Katelyn Fontaine and in front, student Skyley Bohun, left, and Chelsea McIntyre. The Key to Safety was presented to the city.

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■ CITY COUNCIL

Future of economic development now in city's hands

MARK TAYTI
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — A 5-4 vote in city council chambers Monday, Jan. 11 put an end to Port Colborne's Economic and Tourism Development Corp.

The tiebreaker vote by Mayor Vance Badaway has now put the future of economic development in Port Colborne under the complete control of the city.

Since its inception in 2004, the corporation has gone from being run as a partnership between city council and business leaders to having city councillors serve as sole members on its board of directors.

Ward 4 Coun. Kate Leigh voted against the recommendation that gives the city overarching control of economic development duties.

She felt captains of local industry were best suited to the task of running the development corporation and "not sorry" they were not given more of a chance to speak.

"Winding it down and dissolving it into a city department" is the wrong way to go, Leigh added.

Ward 4 Coun. Barb Butters disagreed.

Butters characterized the corporation as "an experiment that failed."

"The budget we put forward for the corporation is in excess of \$500,000," Butters said. "That's a lot of hay to put out there... it's time to bring it back in-house."

Ward 1 Coun. Bill Steele said he was torn over which way to vote.

Ward 1 Coun. David Barrick was another councillor who said there were pros and cons to consider.

"We are either all in or all out," Barrick said. "We cannot continue in half measures."

Barrick supported the bid to bring the corporation fully under the city's control.

Ward 2 Coun. Frank DiBartolomeo said the problem was micromanagement.

"The corporation system is not working and the proposed system will not work," he added.

He said the city's economic development officer should be given a clear mandate and allowed to run with it.

Badaway said the issue boiled down to "trans-

4 This is all about being transparent. This is about being accountable. We are the stewards of public dollars — not a public board, not an appointed body of people. We are elected to make decisions in council. In my view, I don't think we should be creating other boards and commissions.

Mayoral Vance Badaway

parency" and "accountability."

He said the corporation is having "a wide open door" when it comes to decision-making. "(City hall) is the point of contact," Badaway said in explaining the need to take back the reins of the economic development corporation.

The mayor compared it to Local Health Integration Networks and said operating a board or corporation "compromises the fundamentals of government."

He said all about being transparent is about being accountable. We are the stewards of public dollars — not a public board, not an appointed body of people. We are elected to make decisions in council. In my view, I don't think we should be creating other boards and commissions."

He said senior management at city hall and council members work well as a team.

"We are very aggressive and very business-minded," Badaway added.

Ward 3 Coun. Gary Brunet felt the city was limiting its options by doing away with the corporation.

City manager Bob Heil and economic development officer Stephen Thompson will now work out the details of how the development corporation will be folded into city operations.

mtayti@wellandtribune.ca

■ SCHOOL LIFE

Feeder schools get treated to a basketball game

PAIGE THOMPSON
For InPort News

As it gets closer to the end of the school year, many high schools are competing for Grade 9 students, including a number of students entering

Grade 8 students are beginning to decide which high school they want to attend so local high schools are putting on activities and events to attract potential students.

Port Colborne High School held a senior night basketball game against Confederation to entice feeder school students and Sarah Boultou kicked off the game with the national anthem.

The Blue Bears started off quite well and by the end of the first quarter were leading 15-9. During the game, Port High's mighty ensemble performed and by the end of the second quarter the blue bears were still in the lead 29-16.

At this point, the athletics council scheduled a free throw contest where a boy and girl from each school would compete. W. E. Brown's, Mack Jones won the free throw for the boys' division.

Jones hadn't planned on attending Port High, but the day made his choice a little more difficult.

"The highlight of this afternoon was definitely winning the free throw but also the excitement of the game and the spirit of the school," he said, noting he enjoyed all the events.

Augie Tardik said W. E. Brown, Brandon Tardik said he had a good time. His cousins were on Port High's senior team so that made the experience even better. Tardik sees himself attending Port High and this experience made this even more vivid.

The school spirit makes this for a better experience," Tardik said.

The game ended with the Blue Bears winning 62-37.

■ I'VE BEEN THINKING

Is your faith strong enough?

FROM PAGE 10

that is plentiful.

Where your streams of abundance flow, blessed be your name.

Blessed be your name when I'm in the desert place.

Though I walk through the wilderness, blessed by your name.

When the world's all it should be, blessed by your name.

Blessed be your name on the road marked with suffering.

Though there's pain in the offering, blessed be your name.

May these words be yours and mine as we go through predictable and unpredictable moments in 2010.

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■ **CONCERT:** The British Invasion plays Lakeshore Feb. 5 to support music program

Fundraising concert could be music to students' ears



KAESHA FORAND Staff Photo

The Lakeshore Catholic High School jazz band will be the opening act for the British Invasion Band during a fundraiser for the school's music program on Friday, Feb. 5 at 7 p.m. Tickets for the event are available in advance at the school, at the door, or through jazz band musicians which include Dan Stabula, Erika Frey, Jenna Barnes and music teacher Loreen Michalak.

KAESHA FORAND
InPort News Staff

POR T CO L B R O N E — The Lakeshore Catholic Jazz band belts out a good tune — but with old instruments, there's room for improvement.

The band hopes a fundraising concert with the British Invasion Band will not only celebrate the '60s, but also provide much needed funds to purchase expensive instruments.

The music department needs synthesizers, trumpets and trombones — and at \$1,800 a piece, music teacher Loreen Michalak is hoping the fundraiser is a success.

"Some of the equipment is original from the school opening, it's very old and faulty," she said.

"It gets to a point where the refurbishment necessary would be too costly."

The school opened in 1988. Michalak said the concert is the first fundraiser for the



Some of the equipment is original from the school opening. It's very old and faulty.

Loreen Michalak, Lakeshore Catholic teacher

music department. She is hoping to sell out the 600-seat auditorium.

The 15-member Lakeshore jazz band will play a variety of music, including by Van Morrison, Stevie Wonder and Michael Bublé.

The British Invasion Band needs to raise \$10,000 to cover the cost of the equipment. The band will play songs from The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, The Troggs, The Kinks, The Guess Who and The Yardbirds.

"The jazz band is good — they've been rehearsing since September," said the British Invasion Band's supervisor, "they're very polished, very entertaining."

Tickets for the Feb. 5 event can be purchased at the school in advance, at the door, or by calling Nancy Bodis at 905-

835-2451. Drawings for prizes will be entered in a draw to win an acoustic guitar and an electric guitar kit with an amplifier and a case.

kforand@wellandtribune.ca

Concert details

When: Friday, Feb. 5, 7 p.m.

Where: Lakeshore Catholic High School

Bands: The British Invasion Band; show openers, The Lakeshore Catholic Jazz Band

Cause: Fundraiser for the school's music department

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■ along the lakeshore

Jan. 27

• Family Literacy Day — Join the Port Colborne Ontario Early Years Centre from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and sing for literacy.

• Visit the Port Colborne Library for Family Literacy Day. Collect a free book bag and take advantage of free book giveaways on a first come, first served basis beginning at 9 a.m.

Jan. 31

The annual meeting of the Winger Church of Christ (Disciples) Hwy. 3 Winger will be held following the 10:30 a.m. morning service.

Feb. 5

A fundraising concert will be presented by the Lakeshore Catholic High School music department.

ment featuring the British Invasion Band at 7 p.m. in the LCHS auditorium. Tickets are \$10 and are available at the door or by contacting the school at 905-835-2451. Funds raised will go towards scholarships, bursaries and new instruments.

Feb. 7

The Chorale Concertante presents the gospel train revolution exhibition, a concert celebrating Black History Month and a progressive gospel music over the last two centuries, 2:30 p.m. at St. John's United Church, 14789 Sudom Rd. Tickets are \$25 for adults; \$5 for students at the door or by calling 905-646-9225.

Feb. 11

The Roselawn Centre is holding its second annual Ladies Night Out. Join in on a night of fabulous foods, fantastic vendors and fine food and wine at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25 and include appetizers, desserts and wine sampling. The

market place will include purses, jewellery, tarot card reading, mini massages, chocolate treats, specialty drinks and more. For more information or to purchase tickets call 905-834-0833.

Ongong

• The 79 Lynton Davies Air Cadet Squadron meets every Tuesday at St. Peters Lutheran Church, 200 Erie St. Port Colborne, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Interested persons should contact captain John Derousse at 905-227-7509.

• Kids zone for children age six to 12 runs every Monday and Friday from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.; at the centre for Community Living, 100 McRae Ave. until June 18 for \$5 registration fee. Free transportation available. Call 905 835-8941 ext. 135. All events are supervised by adults.

Library activities

• Adult Knitting classes with Vicki Fretz, begin-

ning Tuesday evenings 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., classes began Jan. 5 and continue to Mar. 9; and afternoons from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., classes begin Jan. 12 and continue to Mar. 11 in the library auditorium. To join the knitters club call Vicki 905-835-5373.

• Tai Chi Class: Improve your health, well-being, balance and breathing. Mondays 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the auditorium. Call 905-321-9536.

• Express Yourself: Writer's Support Group with facilitators Gary and Katty Roy. Thursdays 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Practical advice on getting published, finding a literary agent, and copyrights. For information contact the facilitators by e-mail at grey10@ogoco.ca, or call the library at 905-834-6512.

• Films for seniors presented the first Wednesday of the month until May 13 p.m. in the auditorium. Free admission and refreshments.

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PEOPLE, PLACES

Nobody wants a strike



George Duma

BY GEORGE

I'm blessed to be able to do what I do for a living. I'm a guy who teaches journalism at Niagara College. I cherish every day I work. I have always maintained — in fact, it's something I preach to my students — that if you find that one thing is your passion and find a way to make a living at it, you'll never work a day in your life. I've been lucky enough to find it twice.

In all years of my journalism, the only year was the folks who worked for me. I was a reporter for the Tribune, I got it for free. I rarely felt like I was working. I got to go into The Tribune building every day and built a paper for the next day. It was a challenge and it was just so much fun. When I made the decision to leave The Tribune and go to Niagara College, I worried a bit about missing what I was leaving behind.

I never had a life at Niagara has been everything I hoped it would be and more. I think about it constantly, to keep perspective, to focus on what I'm doing and to never forget how lucky I am. I get up every day and drive to Welland to spend time and share knowledge with enthusiastic young people.

Last week, a vote was held across the province by the Ontario Public Service Employees Union asking college teaching staff if they wanted a strike or arbitration. It was, by a vote of 57% in favour of a strike versus 43% against.

Normally, in votes such as this, a strong mandate is considered to be 65-70% two-thirds or more. So to say OPSEU was given a strong mandate to strike would be a mistake. However, majority rules so here we now sit, with the possibility of a province-wide strike set for early February.

Both sides are to go to the bargaining table this past Tuesday for the first time in more than a month. There is the possibility that as you read this, a deal has been hammered out. I certainly hope so.

The money issue is this: The colleges have offered a four-year deal with annual salary increases of 1.75%, 1.75% and 2.5%. OPSEU countered with a three-year deal with annual increases of 2.5% in each of the three years.

The college system was founded in Ontario, full-time academic staff has only gone out on strike three times. In 1984, instructors were legislated back to work after 23 days in an order that included binding arbitration. In 1985, both parties agreed to binding arbitration/mediation after 20 days. In 2006, it lasted 18 days when both parties agreed to binding mediation.

I believe it's fair to say that the college system has been struck once in more than 20 years. The ones who least deserve a strike are the ones who will suffer the most if there is one — the students. There is an anxiety hanging over them since the vote results were made public Wednesday night. And who can blame them?

The ramifications are endless. If there is a work disruption, obviously they miss out on their education. But it's more than that. If there is a strike of any length, the students will have to pay for their education all the way to the end of the school year so students would have to stay in classes into May. This, of course, would cut into their summer employment time, which many need in order to pay tuition. It would be a mess.

I have every confidence both sides can sit down and come to an agreement. They simply must. There's just too much riding on it.

George Duma is a resident of Port Colborne and has spent 30 years in the newspaper business. He is currently a member of the journalism faculty at Niagara College. He welcomes comments and column suggestions and can be reached at gduma@covcog.ca.